THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): Consequent upon disinvestment of BALCO Ltd. w.e.f. 2.3.2000, payment of Rs. 1.57 crore (approx.) have been made by the BALCO Management against the bills for deployment cost for the period upto May, 2001 and other claims like Supervision charges, clothing charges, cost on Arms and Ammunition etc. Reimbursement of deployment cost for the periods of June and July, 2001 amounting to Rs. 43.37 lacs (approx.) are awaited from the BALCO Management.

Panchayat Elections in Pondicherry

3250. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Territory of Pondicherry has not conducted Panchayat Elections for the past 30 years; and

(b) whether Government will give any direction to conduct the Panchayat Elections to Pondicherry Government since it is a Constitutional obligation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Pondicherry have reported that the Panchayat Elections could not be initially held as the work relating to delimitation of wards was completed by the Delimitation Commission only in 1990 and later the provisions relating to reservation of seats for Backward Classes as contained in the Village and Panchayat Act, 1973, as amended from time to time, was declared unconstitutional and unenforceable by the Chennai High Court. The Government of Pondicherry have filed a Clarificatory Application which has not so far been disposed off by the Hon'ble High Court.

(b) The Central Government had in November, 2000 advised the Government of Pondicherry to consider withdrawal of the Clarificatory Application and to hold Panchayat Elections at the earliest. This was examined by the Government of Pondicherry and it was decided that it was more appropriate to move the Hon'ble High Court for early listing of the Clarificatory Application as its withdrawal might lead to more legal complications subsequently.

Human Rights Commissions in the country

3251. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commissions have been formed by now in every State and Union Territory;